

**CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM CRITICAL FEED USE
GRAZING PLAN- South Zone**



Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Minnesota

6/08

WHAT IS CRITICAL FEED USE - GRAZING?

This activity is considered a permissive use of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract acres and is approved only for 2008.

Ineligible Acreage

- Acres planted to trees in CP4B and CP4D cannot be grazed.
- Land within 120 feet of a stream or water body. **Refer to the attached map for an estimate of the ineligible acres and their location.**

Eligible Acreage

- CRP grazing activities apply only to practices CP-1, CP-2, CP-4B, CP4D, CP-10 and CP-18 B and C.
- Practice acreage is eligible for this activity 12 months after the cover is fully established.
- Participants must request and receive approval from FSA prior to starting these activities. This job sheet revises your existing CRP conservation plan.
- Grazing will only be permitted from August 2 to November 9, 2008. Remove livestock by November 9, 2008.

Recommended stocking rate calculations for grazing period August 2 – November 9, 2008

Step 1 – Inventory

Forage Inventory

Cool Season Forages (list species) _____

Estimated Acres of Cool Season Forages _____

Warm Season Forages (list species) _____

Estimated Acres of Warm Season Forages _____

Livestock Inventory

Group 1

Kind/Class _____ Ave. Weight per head _____

Group 2

Kind/Class _____ Ave. Weight per head _____

Note information for additional groups if needed.

Group 1 Livestock are a Beef cow and calf and typically weigh 1700 lbs

Group 2 Livestock will be defined by the participant with an estimated weight per head

Step 2 – Level and Extent of Grazing Producer to check one of the statements below

_____ I choose to **graze** 75% of the eligible CRP acres at 100% of the recommended Natural Resources Conservation Service stocking rate. If you select this option you must designate the specific acres of each eligible practice that will be grazed in each field.

_____ I choose to **graze** 100% of the eligible CRP acres at 75% of the recommended Natural Resources Conservation Service stocking rate.

Step 3 – Determine Stocking Rate for Group 1 Livestock

Stocking rates are based upon a cow and calf with an assumed total weight of 1700# and an assumed 2.5 tons of available forage/acre for cool season forages and 1.5 tons of available forage for warm season forages

- ✓ 100% stocking rate (cool season forages) = 2 acres per cow/calf pair
- ✓ 100% stocking rate (warm season forages) = 3.5 acres per cow/calf pair
- ✓ 75% stocking rate (cool season forages) = 3 acres per cow/calf pair
- ✓ 75% stocking rate (warm season forages) = 5 acres per cow/calf pair

Cool Season Forages

_____ acres being grazed ÷ 2 acres (from above) = _____ cow/calf pairs at 100% stocking rate

_____ acres being grazed ÷ 3 acres (from above) = _____ cow/calf pairs at 75% stocking rate

Warm Season Forages

_____ acres being grazed ÷ 3.5 acres (from above) = _____ cow/calf pairs at 100% stocking rate

_____ acres being grazed ÷ 5 acres (from above) = _____ cow/calf pairs at 75% stocking rate

Step 3 – Determine Stocking Rate for Group 2 Livestock

1700 ÷ **Average Weight of Group 2 Livestock** _____ = _____ (Conversion number X cow/calf pair)

(To convert for stockers or other grazing animals divide 1700# (cow and calf weight) by the weight of the grazing animal for example:

1700# ÷ 700# stocker = 2.4 - 700# stockers are the equivalent of 1 cow with calf)

Additional Requirements

- The following minimum stubble heights need to be maintained during the grazing period. If the stubble heights get below these levels grazing animals will need to be removed or reduced to allow the forages to recover.

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Introduced cool season grass and legumes | 3 – 4 inches |
| Warm Season grasses | 6 – 8 inches |
- The quality of the forage may not be adequate to meet the nutritional needs of the grazing animals. Supplemental feeding may be necessary for the animals to maintain body condition. The producer will need to monitor the body condition of the grazing animal.
- The CRP participant is responsible for re-establishing, at their own expense, any cover destroyed or damaged as a result of participating in any of these activities.

Refer to the attached map for an estimate of the allowable acres and their locations.

I agree to perform CRP Critical Feed Use - Grazing according to the conditions defined in this job sheet.

CRP Participant

Tract(s)

Date

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